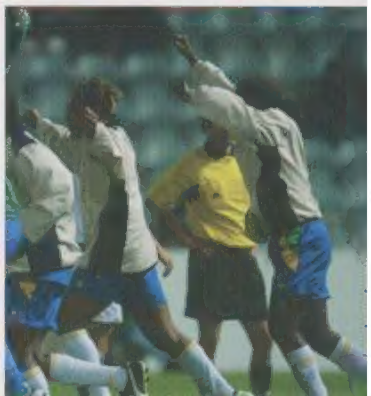
WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

SIFF

Tuesday, September 6th, 2005

Australia
VS
Solomon Islands



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Solomon Islands Football Federation recognises the support of the European Union, RAMSI, SolBrew, Y Sato, Patrick Logistics, LR Enterprises, ZFM100, Lee Kwok Kuen, Technisyst, plus a host of other organisations and individuals. Of course, you as well. Thank you.

PATRICK
Defence Logistics

Greetings from Prime Minister

Solomon Islands is honoured to host our friends from Australia for their last World Cup Qualifier under the Oceania Football Confederation. The timely deployment of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) has seen these types of prestigious events brought back to our shores. RAMSI has created an environment which allows National sporting organizations like SIFF to flourish, as a result we have seen our country's undisputed national sport elevated to new heights. Football has not only proved itself as an instrument for peace, it has also provided an opportunity to educate our people. The RAMSI grassroots project and the EU Unity in sports programme has taken football to the grassroots and allowed them to develop their knowledge of the game through basic coaching and referring whilst also instilling Christian morals and values.

The Solomon Islands Government continues to support the FIFA slogan of "Fair Play" and would like to extend cordial greetings to the FIFA match officials appointed for this game. I would also like to commend the SIFF staff and the local organizing committee for their efforts in making this event a success. These are indeed exciting times for Football in the Solomon's. Lastly I would like to thank both the Football Federation of Australia and the Oceania Football Confederation for the confidence and trust in bringing this historic fixture to the shores of the Happy Isles. Best of luck to both teams.

Sir Alan Kemakeza
Prime Minister

Greetings from OFC President

The long journey to the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany continues with the Stage 3 Oceania playoff between Australia and the Solomon Islands.

It has been 24 years since a nation from our region attended a FIFA World Cup. For the winner of this match the journey does not end here, there is one more step before a team from Oceania can reach the biggest sporting stage in the world, a home and away match against the fifth placed South American side in November.

Last year these two sides met in the final of the OFC Nations Cup with over 40,000 fans attending the matches in Honiara and Sydney, in what must be described as an overwhelming success for the concept of home and away fixtures. Of course Australia claimed OFC Nations Cup and went on to represent Oceania at the 2005 FIFA Confederations Cup in Germany. This match marks an historic occasion, the last time they will play in the Oceania leg of qualifying for the FIFA World Cup.

It seems appropriate that the Oceania qualifying process end in Honiara where it began nearly 15 months ago. Home and away matches help to promote football in our region and give people an opportunity to witness their national team in their own country. The Solomon Islands are an excellent example of this as support for football is unmatched by any other OFC nation.

To the fans and spectators of both teams, may I extend my appreciation for your support and patronage at the respective venues. Fans are a big part of the football experience and we hope the matches will provide an entertaining spectacle for all. Good luck to both teams and may the spirit of fair play prevail throughout both matches.

Yours in football.

Reynald Temarii
President

Greetings from Minister of Sports

Games combine history, culture and peace with sports, and have the powerful effect of inspiring a culture of peace and unity. They symbolize friendship among nations. Your coming to our happy isles for this historic occasion is contributing to an instantaneous benefit towards the rebuilding of national peace, reconciliation, nation building, national unity, joy and national pride.

This game marks the last world cup qualifier for Australia under the Oceania Football Confederation. Our Country is proud to be the team that farewells Australia from the Oceania region to go the next level with our many blessings and our pride as you will be representing this region. Football in the Solomon's is the people's game, followed with immense passion and is embedded within the fabric of the community. Sport not only has physiological benefits, but also has the power to educate and bring the country together. For these reasons, my ministry continues to support the development of football in the Solomons. The Solomon Islands Football Federation has to be commended for the various strategies implied that has enabled firstly, football in the Solomons to be elevated to new heights and secondly for bringing these types of prestigious tournaments to our shores.

In the past year the Honiara public has witnessed three major football competitions. Although the 2011 South Pacific Games Bid was not successful, the Government through my ministry, will do its utmost best to ensure that more of these types of events are brought to the Happy Isles.

Hon Nelson Kile
Minister of Home Affairs

Greetings from SIFF President

On this momentous occasion I have the pleasure in welcoming to our beloved Solomon Islands the players, team officials and delegates of the Football Federation of Australia and the FIFA match officials who are here for this historical event football has brought to our country and its people.

This is the first time in Oceania a national team of one of the OFC/FIFA member Island countries apart from Australia and New Zealand has ever made to this stage of a qualifying series of a major world cup competition. We are proud of our achievements and wish to acknowledge the support of our Government, corporate sponsors, and you our football partners.

I would like to thank our Prime Minister Hon. Allan Kemakeza and the Government for appreciating and understanding the important role football plays in the building of our nation and for the commitment they have made to ensure SIFF meets its International Commitments.

SIFF would also like to acknowledge RAMSI, the European Union and Solbrew our development partners for their continued support and for helping SIFF take football to the grass roots and also for providing the many children in schools around the country the opportunity to learn more about Football.

The future looks bright for Football in the Solomon's, it is now up to us to make sure it continues to progress forward.

Martin Alufurai
President, SIFF

How it all began . . .

May 2004 saw Solomon Islands, under the guidance of Alan Gilet, for the first time play host to stage one of the Nations cup qualifiers, bringing in New Caledonia, Cook Islands, Tahiti, and Tonga. The 2-1 defeat over New Caledonia was the highlight of stage one. The match was one of the toughest seen at Lawson Tama for a long time.

Finishing as top of the pool, Solomon qualified for stage two in Adelaide, Australia. Solomon continued on their winning streak defeating Tahiti, Fiji and Vanuatu and in an amazing display of free flowing football, Solomon shocked Australia with a 2 all draw. This time around it was the boy from Santa Cruz who stole the limelight, after a pretty lacklustre campaign thus far, Menapi finally struck form against the Aussies, netting both goals and sending shockwaves around the Pacific.

In October 2004, the Socceroos arrived in Honiara for the first leg of the Oceania Nations Cup final. This was the first time that a team of such high profile had ever made it to the happy isles. The likes of Schwazzer, Emerton, and Lucas Neil had only been playing in the English Premier league a week earlier and to see them in Honiara was a real thrill for the public. Solomon suffered a 5 -1 defeat and was somewhat of a learning curve for the boys.

Three days after the first game, the boys were off to Sydney for the second leg of the Oceania Nations Cup final. For the Australian public, this was also the first time for them to see their own team stacked with superstars. Harry-Kewell's recovery from injury coincided with this important clash in front of the Sydney hopefuls, his inclusion in the starting line up made the occasion even more special for the public. Solomon eventually went down by six goals to nil. However, with new fuel from Brazillian coach Airton Andrioli, and a more determined and spirited line-up, the Solomon team is confident for another Menapi finish.

YAMAHA

YAMAHA

YAMAHA OUTBOARDS

MOTEURS HORS-BORD YAMAHA

Australian Team Profile

John Aloisi
Age: 29
Striker,
Int'nal caps: 36

Marco Bresciano
Age: 25
Midfielder,
Int'nal caps: 17

Tim Cahill
Age: 25
Midfielder,
Int'nal caps: 9

Scott Chipperfield
Age: 29
Midfielder,
Int'nal caps: 38

Brett Emerton
Age: 26
Midfielder/Defender,
Int'nal caps: 44*

Zeljko Kalac
Age: 34
Goalkeeper,
Int'nal caps: 51

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Australian Team Profile

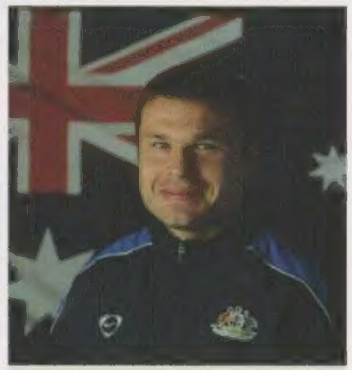
Craig Moore
Age: 29
Defender,
Int'nal caps: 31

Lucas Neill
Age: 25
Defender/Midfielder,
Int'nal caps: 16

Tony Popovic
Age: 34
Defender,
Int'nal caps: 52

Ahmad Elrich
Age: 24
Midfielder,
Int'nal caps: 12

Tony Vidmar
Age: 35
Defender,
Int'nal caps: 86



Mark Viduka
Age: 29
Striker,
Int'nal caps: 28

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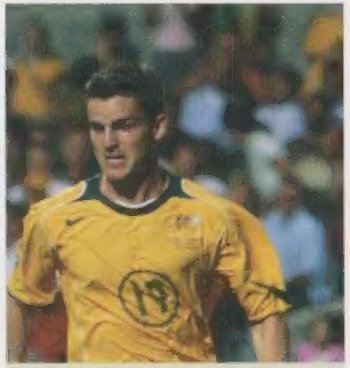
Australia Team Profile

Vince Grella
Age: 25
Midfielder,
Int'nal caps: 14

Josip Skoko
Age: 29
Midfielder,
Int'nal caps: 40

Mile Sterjovski
Age: 26
Striker/Midfielder,
Int'nal caps: 18

Mark Schwazzer
Age: 31
Goalkeeper,
Int'nal caps: 33



Jason Culina
Age: 25
Midfielder/Striker,
Int'nal caps: 6

Archie Thompson
Age: 26
Striker,
Int'nal caps: 12

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Solomon Team Profile

Abraham Iniga

Age: 27
Midfielder, #8
Int'nal caps: 1

Alick Maemae

Age: 19
Midfielder, #7
Int'nal caps: 12

Commins Menapi

Age: 27
Striker, #11
Int'nal caps: 22

Francis Aruwafu

Age: 30
Goal Keeper, #20
Int'nal caps: 1

Felix Ray Jr.

Age: 21
Goal Keeper, #1
Int'nal caps: 2

Francis Wasi

Age: 29
Midfielder, #19
Int'nal caps: 26

George Suri

Age: 23
Defender, #5
Int'nal caps: 12

Gideon Omokirio

Age: 29
Defender, #17
Int'nal caps: 32

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Solomon Team Profile

Jack Samani

Age: 25
Midfielder, #14
Int'nal caps: 22

Judd Molea

Age: 16
Striker, #15
Int'nal caps: 1

Kidstone Billy

Age: 23
Striker, #9
Int'nal caps: 2

Leslie Leo

Age: 26
Defender, #2
Int'nal caps: 32

Nelson Sale

Age: 18
Defender, #6
Int'nal caps: 32

Batram Suri

Age: 33
Striker, #10
Int'nal caps: 50

Richard Anisua

Age: 20
Defender, #12
Int'nal caps: 4

Stanley Waita

Age: 26
Midfielder, #16
Int'nal caps: 28

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Solomon Team Profile

Terry Oiaka

Age: 22
Defender, #4
Int'nal caps: -

Henry Fa'arodo Jr.

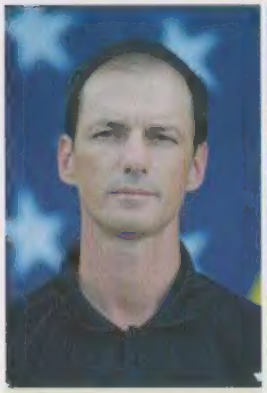
Age: 21
Midfielder, #18
Int'nal caps: 20

Mahlon Houkarawa

Age: 29
Defender, #3
Int'nal caps: 3

George Lui

Age: 24
Midfielder, #13
Int'nal caps: 7



Coach
Airton Andrioli

Assistant Coach
Patrick Miniti

Team Manager
Francis Kairi

Physiotherapist
Charles Gauba

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Player Feature - Commins Menapi

Within the South Pacific, Commins Menapi's achievements as a footballer are quite hard to beat. Menapi grew up in the far east Solomon island of Santa Cruz, one of the more isolated parts of the Country. He first caught the eyes of the National Selectors in 1997 whilst playing for his native Temotu Province in the Solomon Cup. He then moved to Honiara to undertake further studies. Still relatively unknown and hiding in the shadows of fellow striker Batram Suri, Menapi's claim to fame was somewhat of a coincidence. Still adapting to life in the big smoke, Menapi spent most evenings at the College grounds, watching the Marist team train. It so happened that one particular evening during an inter squad game the boys were short of a player, seeing that Menapi was the only spectator there he was asked to join in to make up the numbers. Menapi amazed the coach with his clinical finishing and faultless technique. He was signed up and registered on the spot. Once his footballing talent was identified, the books went on the back burner as he spent most of his time playing, training and dreaming about becoming a professional footballer. What followed was a dramatic series of events that many Solomon Island footballers will find hard to match.

1998 saw Menapi make his debut for Marist in the HFA league, finishing as the league's top goal scorer and was quickly pushed into the starting line up of the Honiara squad for the Solomon Cup. He was then named in the National training squad for the Melanesian Cup in Vanuatu.

In 1999 after just finding his feet in the Capital, Menapi for the first time boarded a Boeing 737 and was off to Nelson Suburbs in New Zealand. He was named as the clubs top goal scorer and agreed to a further one year contract. In the same year, under the revamped New Zealand National League, Menapi took out all three of New Zealand Football's most coveted awards, top goal scorer, player of the year, and was voted players player of the year, something that's never been done before in New Zealand Footballing history.

In the year 2000, within a year of going to New Zealand, Menapi was again on the move, this time to the Land Down Under with Sydney United where he signed his first professional contract. Menapi continued on his goal scoring spree, finishing as the club's top goal scorer for three years in a row in the NSL. Financial constraints meant that Sydney United had to release Menapi in 2004. Something that they obviously regret after seeing Commins mesmerize the Australian defence with his close control, and of course who could forget his two brilliant strikes against Australia that saw the Solomon's pull off an unexpected 2 all draw against the hosts. This earned them the right to contest qualification for the 2006 World Cup , over traditional powerhouses New Zealand and Tahiti.

Menapi believes that "hard work, discipline and most importantly enjoyment of football is what is needed to become a professional Footballer".

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Solomon Sheets Steel

Lee Kwok Kuen

Solomon Seaweed

Player Feature - Judd Molea

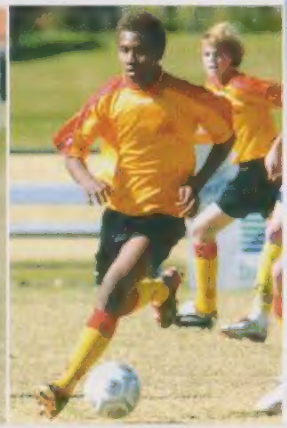
Judd Molea, barely 17, has stamped his name in the history books as the youngest player ever to be named in the country's senior national team.

He joined the national Under 17 and took part in the OFC U17 qualifying tournament in April 2005 in Noumea, New Caledonia. For now, however, his focus is the World Cup qualifying series with Australia.

He marked his debut in international football with an excellent performance - scoring a total of 10 goals in Noumea. His remarkable feat impressed the SIFF technical department so much so that he was earmarked for the senior squad.

Today, Judd is fitting in well with the senior team preparing to play Australia. He remains open minded about the prospect of donning the national colours in the senior level.

Judd's inclusion in the team has received commendation from a good section of the community. Soccer commentators believe SIFF has made a right decision to have him in the final 20.



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